

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2708 - SB 2973

February 18, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the State Board of Education to develop and maintain a teacher recruitment and retention program to assure an adequate number and quality of teachers for Tennessee public schools. In developing and maintaining this program, the Board shall have access to, and is authorized to expend all state, federal, or private funds appropriated or designated for this purpose.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

Estimate assumes:

- This program will be developed and maintained at the state level and local funds would not be expended.
- The extent of the increase in state expenditures will depend on the scope of the program. According to the August 2001 SREB report *Educator Supply and Demand Statistical Report for the State of Tennessee*, Tennessee faces teacher shortages in a number of areas. The bill does not define what an adequate number and quality of teachers would be. However, it is assumed that to develop and maintain such a program in Tennessee would result in an increase in state expenditures exceeding \$100,000.
- To the extent federal and private funds may be used for this purpose, the amount of state expenditures required may be reduced.

For information purposes, the Office of Education Accountability developed a proposal in 2001 similar to the provisions set out by this bill. It was determined that five staff persons would be necessary to promote and coordinate existing teacher recruitment programs, create an electronic education employment clearinghouse, and establish a new program to encourage middle and high school students to enter the teaching profession. An office of this size would cost approximately \$568,000 in salaries and support funds. Further, South Carolina has one of the most expansive teacher recruitment programs in the United States. According to the 2000-01 Annual Report for the South Carolina Center for Teacher Recruitment, the center's budget for the 2002 fiscal year is \$3,369,195. A program of similar scope in Tennessee would cost approximately \$3,622,832.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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